

// ESPON Seminar

New Narratives for Territorial Development

5/6 December 2018 // Austria

DRAFT

Context and objective

The ESPON seminar “*New Narratives for Territorial Development*” is organised in cooperation with the Austrian Presidency of the EU Council in the framework of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme, which aims to support policy development for promoting territorial cohesion and harmonious development of the European territory.

Europe’s economic prospects are more positive than they have been for quite some time, with most key indicators offering renewed grounds for confidence. However, the recovery remains fragile, vulnerable to external geopolitical pressures, and its sustainability is far from assured. In addition, the legacy of the financial crisis, concerns over excessive territorial disparities and an uneven geographical spread of the benefits of economic integration have become more pronounced, which have spilled over into discontent and political instability.

With the publication of the draft EU Budget 2021-2027, the narrative underpinning the role and impact of Cohesion Policy is changing. Regional imbalances have become more fluid and complex, and traditional Cohesion Policy goals of simply providing compensatory transfers to less developed and peripheral regions needs to be redefined. This highlights the continued need for an enhanced territorial dimension to the future Cohesion Policy to effectively address the key challenges and harness opportunities. However, to date, there continues to be only limited visibility of a territorial dimension in the emerging narratives concerning future policy and investment priorities.

The objective of this seminar is to provide a mix of high profile key note speeches, panel discussions, interactive policy labs and workshops to discuss and debate new narratives for territorial development in the context of the renewal of the Territorial Agenda 2020 and how best to mobilise and place-based policies to impact mid-term and long-term Cohesion Policy goals. Keynote speakers will examine the historical context of EU territorial development as well as the current state of play and possible future scenarios for the possible evolution of the European territory.

Furthermore, the seminar will provide insights to the latest ESPON evidence on many of the topics related to the territorial cohesion debate regarding migration, labour market, public services, climate change, spatial planning, governance and others. The seminar is aimed at policy makers, stakeholders, practitioners, scientists and experts who are interested in understanding the development challenges and potential of their territory in a wider context and implementing policies ‘on the ground’ and how ESPON evidence can support these processes.

Programme

Tuesday // 4 December

19:00 Welcome Reception

Wednesday // 5 December

08:30 Registration and Coffee

09:30 Welcome and Opening

- Austrian Presidency (TBD)
- Ilona Raugze, Director of ESPON EGTC

10:00

Looking Back to Look Forward: Towards New Narratives for Territorial Development

In this keynote plenary session, two of the leading thinkers on European territorial development will provide a historical perspective on the emergence of European territorialism as means to rethink the current debates and the need for better, rather than more, place-sensitive territorial development policies to address the growing geographies of political discontent in lagging regions.

Keynote

- **“The Poverty of Territorialism”** Andreas Faludi, Professor Emeritus of Spatial Policy Systems in Europe, Delft University of Technology
- **“The Geography of EU Discontent and the Revenge of Places that Don’t Matter”** Prof Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Professor of Economic Geography, London School of Economics

Debate with the audience

12:00

End of the plenary session

12:15

ESPON Family picture

12:30

Lunch

13:30

A New Territorial Agenda Post-2020: Delivering More Effective Governance

- The Geographies of European Peripheries, Dr. Thomas Dax, ESPON PROFECY Project
- Future Scenarios for the EU Territory: Andreu Ulied, Mcrit, ESPON ETRF Project
- Recommendations for Better Integrated Place-Based Policy Interventions: Vincent Nadin, ESPON COMPASS Project
- An EU Framework for Territorial Implementation Partnerships, TIPS Project

Debate with the audience

15:00

Coffee Break

15:30 Rethinking European Futures Workshops

Three parallel interactive futures workshops based on the European Territorial Reference Framework (ETRF) Project.

Moderators: Kai Boehme, Spatial Foresight & Andreu Ulled, Mcrit

17:30 Panel: Emerging Narratives for a New Territorial Agenda Post-2020

18:00 *End of the Programme for Day 1*

19:30 *Conference Dinner*

Thursday // 6 December

08:30 *Late registration*

09:00 **Parallel Policy Labs**

Policy Lab 1: New Narratives for Cross-border territorial Cooperation

Moderator: Nicolas Rossignol, ESPON EGTC

Panel delegates:

- DG REGIO / Unit Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, internal borders
- Association of European Border Region
- Cross-Border Public Services, ESPON CPS Project
- TIA for Cross-Border Cooperation, ESPON TIA CBC Project

Policy Lab 2: New Narratives for European Migration Flows

Moderator: Martin Gauk, ESPON EGTC

Panel delegates:

- Impacts of Refugee Flows to Territorial Development, ESPON MIGRATE Project
- Territorial and Urban Potentials Connected to Migration and Refugee Flows, ESPON TRANSMIR Project
- Youth unemployment: Territorial trends and regional resilience, ESPON YUTRENDS Project

Policy Lab 3: New Narratives for Greener Territorial Development

Moderator: Michaela Gensheimer, ESPON EGTC

Panel delegates:

- Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services, ESPON GRETA Project
- Circular Economy and Territorial Consequences, ESPON CIRCTER Project
- Linking Networks of Protected Areas, ESPON LINKPAS Project

Policy Lab 4: An Enhanced Macro-Regional Approach to Future Cohesion Policy

Moderator: Sandra Di Biaggio, ESPON EGTC

- Territorial Scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region, ESPON BT 2050 Project
- Common spatial perspectives for the Alpine area - Towards a common vision, ESPON ALPS 2050 Project
- Territorial Evidence Support for European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, ESPON TEVI Project

10:30 *Coffee Break*

11:00 **Presentation of Selected New ESPON Research**

Forthcoming ESPON research seek to provide a better evidence-informed understanding of the territorial dimension of future Cohesion Policy in respect of key policy challenges and opportunities.

- ESPON MSP-LSI, Maritime Spatial Planning & Land-Sea Interactions
- ESPON BIG DATA & EGC, Potentials of big data for integrated territorial policy development in the European growth corridors
- ESPON URRUC, Urban-Rural Connectivity in Non-Metropolitan Regions
- ESPON ENSURE, European Sustainable Urbanisation Through Port City Development
- ESPON ACPA, Adapting European Cities to Population Ageing; Policy challenges and best practices
- ESPON SHARING, Stocktaking and assessment of typologies of Urban Circular Collaborative Economy initiatives
- ESPON BDHD, Big Data for Territorial Analysis and Housing Dynamics

12:00 **ESPON Moving Forward**

- Tiemo Eser, ESPON MA
- Ilona Raugze, ESPON EGTC

12:30 **Themes of the Romanian and Finnish Presidencies**

- Radu Necsuliu, ESPON MC Member (RO)
- Finnish Presidency, ESPON MC Member (FI)

12:45 **Closure**

- Austrian Presidency (TBD)
- Ilona Raugze, Director of ESPON EGTC

13:00 *Farewell lunch*